THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Cellular Jail at Port Blair in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is not a centrally protected monument. Some portion of the Cellular Jail was damaged due to Tsunami in 2004 and Andaman and Nicobar Administration requested ASI's advice for repairing the damage caused to the structure, which was tendered by the Chennai Circle of ASI. The necessary work was carried out by the Public Works Department of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Uniform service rules in research organisations

4176. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various research organisations under her Ministry have different access/service rules for scholars;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is planning to have uniform rules for all such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excavation work around Nalanda University

4177. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake further excavation work around Nalanda Archaeological remains;

(b) if so, what are the details of the area where this work is proposed to be carried out;

(c) whether villagers located in this area would be relocated or shifted;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) by when the further excavation work will start?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Aid to voluntary organisations is Assam

4178. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organisations in Assam those got sanction/grants-in-aid by the Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether Bhabendra Nath Saikia Children Welfare Trust has been provided with Rs. 15.0 lakhs of building grant from such scheme;

(c) whether Government has stopped payment of further installment after first one of Rs. 4.50 lakhs; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special forces to protect national monuments

4179. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up any special force to protect national monuments or sites under the control of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present. Archaeological Survey of India deploys a mix of regular watch and ward staff of the ASI, private security guards and State Police personnel for security of 3667 centrally protected monuments. In addition, CISF personnel are deployed at selected monuments.

Award to drama writers from Assam by Sangeet Natak Akademy

4180. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single drama writer from the State of Assam has been awarded so far by the Sangeet Natak Akademy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the name of awardee and the work that has been recongnized?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shri Satya Prasad Barua and Shri Arun Sharma from Assam have been awarded by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in the year 1986 and 2004 respectively for their contribution to playwriting in Assamese. Akademi Award is not based on a particular play, but on the sustained contribution of the playwright.

Important research study scheme by Dr. Kumar Suresh Singh

†4181. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anthropological Survey of India had started an important research study scheme two decades ago on national level under the leadership of Dr. Kumar Suresh Singh, which was named as 'People of India';

(b) if so, details of the States whose study volumes have been published by the Anthropological Survey of India as book series after that research study;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bihar-volume has not been published till now;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.